



# 2017-2018

Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund

ANNUAL REPORT



Pennsylvania  
Children's Trust Fund



CENTER FOR SCHOOLS  
AND COMMUNITIES

# Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund

The Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund (CTF), established December 1988 by Act 1988-151 [11 P.S. §§ 2231-2238 relating to the Children's Trust Fund Act (CTFA)], operates under the administration of the 15 member CTF Board composed of legislative appointees appointed by the House and Senate and citizens appointed by the Governor and is supported by the Department of Human Services (DHS). The deputy secretary of DHS's Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) serves as the executive director and carries out the duties and responsibilities assigned by the board through OCDEL's Bureau of Early Intervention Services and Family Supports.

During 2017–2018, the CTF Board shifted the grant year for newly awarded grantees. Cohort 27 (2018–2021) will be the first cohort to operate from July 1–June 30. This move aligns CTF grant activities with the state fiscal year. As a result of this change, no grants were awarded in the 2017–2018 year.



## Guiding Principles and Core Values

We aspire to be a catalyst to influence public policy and to change social attitudes that promote and tolerate violence against children.

We strive to improve the lives of children by initiating prevention programs that strengthen families, build communities, and empower individuals to protect and nurture their children.

We encourage collaboration among public and private agencies, replication of innovative community-based programs, strong leadership, flexibility, and diversity

We recognize our responsibilities as stewards of a public trust, never losing sight of children's urgent need to be free from abuse and neglect.

We are passionately committed to ensuring the safety of children in Pennsylvania.

## Funding

CTF is dedicated to funding community-based programs to prevent child abuse and neglect through three-year grants. Specific emphasis for funding is placed on primary and secondary prevention programs, which focus on the prevention of abuse before it occurs for the first time by implementing evidence-based programs and promising practices.

Grantees are asked to collaborate in their community, intentionally integrate the Strengthening Families Protective Factors (SFPF) Framework into their work, and create a plan to sustain their programs after CTF funds have expired.

Since its inception, CTF has invested more than \$37 million through 298 grants. A full list of former grantees including the counties served can be found on the Children's Trust Fund website:

**[www.pa-ctf.org](http://www.pa-ctf.org)**.

Funds for CTF are generated from a \$10 surcharge on all applications for marriage licenses and divorce complaints that are paid into a special non-lapsing fund. Interest and donations also contribute to the Fund. Donations to CTF may be designated via annual state tax returns.

Grants are awarded in response to a Request for Application (RFA) process. Grantees may apply for up to \$50,000.00 per year for up to three years and require local matching funds. Grantee selection is approved by the CTF Board following a report from the review committee appointed by the Board.

The CTF Board contracts with the Center for Schools and Communities to provide professional development, technical assistance and monitoring functions with the grantees.

# Strengthening Families™

The Children's Trust Fund Board endorses the use of the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors Framework by requiring grantees to integrate the approach into their work. Strengthening Families™ is an approach to working with families to prevent child maltreatment. It promotes the development of protective factors within families building on strengths, rather than focusing on deficits. It is not a curriculum or a program, but a framework of five research-informed protective factors, identified by the Center for the Study of Social Policy, that support effective parenting, even in stressful times. It is based on the belief that all families have strengths and all families need supports. When these protective factors are robust in families, children thrive.

## Five Protective Factors

- Parental resilience
- Social connections for families
- Knowledge of parenting and child development
- Concrete supports in time of need
- Social and Emotional Competence of Children



## Pennsylvania Strengthening Families Leadership Team

The Pennsylvania Strengthening Families Leadership Team (SFLT) works to sustain and weave the five Protective Factors into policies, programs, and practice across child and family service systems. The team consists of leaders in various systems throughout the state and collaborates directly with two national organizations – National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds and the Center for the Study of Social Policy. SFLT is supported by the CTF board.

In 2017–2018, SFLT met quarterly to continue learning about the SFPF Framework and its influence in Pennsylvania organizations, to exchange program and practice concepts and embarked on a strategic planning process. “Notes from the Ground” topics featured two programs that have integrated the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework into their CTF grant funded programs. The recently developed three-hour course, “Understanding the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework” and its distribution through a Professional Development Instructor Institute (PDII) process with the PA Key was described.

A retreat day facilitated by a consultant from The Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) provided a review of the Core Functions of Strengthening Families Leadership Team. The consultant shared experiences of other teams throughout the US, and facilitated a conversation about emerging topics in Pennsylvania. Steering Committee members facilitated a brainstorming session as part of the environmental scan and to outline priorities. Strategic planning will continue in the 2018–2019 year. The Promotions/Marketing Committee led an effort to create materials that described the PA Strengthening Families Leadership Team and the importance of Strengthening Families™ in multiple education, health, and human services fields.

The SFLT continued to monitor the professional development needs related to the SFPF Framework, develop courses as needed, and act as a conduit for trainings developed by national Strengthening Families™ partners. This work is carried out primarily through a contract with Center for Schools and Communities.

# Outcomes And Impact

---

## Children's Trust Fund (CTF) grantees shared impact statements and outcomes data through several reporting methods.

### Outcomes

Grantees in Cohort 25 completed their three-year grant cycle on October 31, 2018. In total, six grantees successfully exited. Three grantees met or exceeded their goals for number of families served during their grant cycle. Three grantees sustained their programs at the same level of service. One grantee sustained a modified version of the program, and the remaining two chose to implement different programs that better fit the changing needs of their communities.

Through community collaborative initiatives, grantees used their position to highlight the role of family support programs in child abuse and neglect prevention efforts, often among partners that were focused on intervention. Grantees expressed that they were able to bring messages of prevention to groups focused on other aspects of family well-being like housing access, food insecurity, and health.

A grantee that focused on providing services to families experiencing addiction learned that Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) affect families from all walks of life. Though staff were aware of this prior to their CTF grant, the reality of serving families from various cultural and socio-economic backgrounds and the level of services needed by the families was an impactful example for staff members. The Family Center Director expressed the importance of additional support for staff because of the high level of stress related to working with families with such intense needs. As a result, the organization implemented Mental Health Days for staff to practice team-building and self-care.

### Impact

Grantees observed positive changes in the behavior of the parents toward their children. Parents employed more positive discipline practices including: providing choices, discipline that is reflective of the child's developmental age, and being consistent. Parents self-reported an increase in positive interaction with their children explaining that they were less likely to use corporal punishment, were more willing to try a variety of strategies when their child misbehaves, and stayed calmer while disciplining their children.

~Information collected through annual site visits

Facilitators observed more connection between the parents and their children, particularly during what is called the "family time" of the Strong Family/Safe Family program. During this time the facilitators plan an activity for the families to do together. It has been encouraging to see the parents focus on the children during this time and engage with them in ways they were not doing prior to the program. Many of the participants are single parents who have little free time to focus solely on their children versus the day to day task of surviving.

#### ~SafeNet Domestic Violence Network, Strengthening Families Program

Fulton County Family Partnership utilizes their Children's Trust Fund grant to enhance their truancy prevention initiative by providing Nurturing Parenting to parents whose children are at risk of becoming truant. Participants reported positive changes in their relationships with their children and an increased sense of self-worth as a parent. They also reported feeling more equipped to handle situations that normally caused stress and turmoil in their home. By providing in-home parent education services, the families understood the importance of their child's education and attendance and made the effort to make sure their children attended school. During the last year, by providing prevention services to families, the number of truancy citations in Fulton County decreased by 76%. Truancy procedures are challenging for families and minimizing this stress can contribute to preventing child abuse and neglect and promoting positive families outcomes.

#### ~Fulton County Family Partnership, Nurturing Parenting

Parents are more willing to ask for help and information for themselves and their children. After the program parents reported that they know where to look for information and are more persistent in their search.

#### ~Children's Aid Society of Clearfield County, Triple P

# Grantees

## Cohort 25 (2015-2018)

Blueprints, Washington and Greene Counties  
Community Action Program Somerset, Somerset County  
Family Services of Montgomery County, Montgomery County  
Maternity Care Coalition, Montgomery County  
SafeNet Domestic Violence Safety Network, Erie County  
Union Snyder Community Action Agency,  
Union and Snyder Counties  
Wordsworth Academy, Philadelphia County  
(Organization closed; Grant terminated April 9, 2018)

## Cohort 26 (2016-2019)

Children's Aid Society of Clearfield County, Clearfield County  
Columbia County Family Center, Columbia County  
Family Services Association of Bucks County, Bucks County  
Fulton County Partnership, Inc., Fulton County  
Jim Thorpe Area School District, Carbon County  
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium, Philadelphia County

## Evidence-informed Programs

Grantees used evidence-informed programs including home visiting models, individual and group-based parent education, and case management. Specific programs include:

- Early Head Start
- Healthy Families America
- Nurse-Legal Partnership
- Nurturing Parenting
- Parents as Teachers
- Strengthening Families Program
- Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP)
- Positive Parenting Program (Triple P)

## November 2017 to October 2018, 13 Grantees served

13  
Counties



808  
Families

900  
Parents and Caregivers



1116  
Children



# 2017-2018

**485** people attended **18** sessions related to the SPPF Framework at conferences, webinars and community-based courses. 205 early care and K-12 educators participated in five workshops that included the SPPF Framework as a key focus.

**155** people attended **10** Bringing the Protective Factors Framework to Life in Your Work courses. These courses were developed by the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds and are taught by certified instructors.

Certified Instructors continued to provide training on the Be Strong Parent Café Model. **Three** Parent Café Training Institutes were held. Through this process **9** community-based teams composed of **53** total staff and parent members participated and committed to deliver a series of three Be Strong Parent Cafés in their communities. **One** Table Host training and **two** Parent Café demonstration workshops took place.

Certified Instructors delivered the Understanding the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework course. **81** courses were delivered reaching **1,123** participants.

[www.pa-strengthening-families.org](http://www.pa-strengthening-families.org)



## Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund Board Members

### **Bruce Clash**

Chair, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Pennsylvania

### **Angela Liddle**

Vice-Chair, Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance

### **Senator Camera Bartolotta**

Beaver, Washington and Greene Counties

### **Diana Bucco\***

The Buhl Foundation

### **Representative Scott Conklin**

Centre County

### **Senator Arthur Haywood**

Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties

### **Representative Dan Moul**

Adams County

### **Abbie Newman\***

Montgomery County Child Advocacy Center

### **Representative Tarah Toohil**

Luzerne County

### **Rodney Wagner**

York County Youth Development Center

\* Resigned at the end of the 2017-18 term.

## Fiscal Report

### 2017-2018

Based on state fiscal year July–June

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$1,540,000.04</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$950,662.67</b>
Marriage/Divorce Fees	\$920,909.50
Investment Income	\$16,969.60
Donations	\$12,783.57
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>\$2,490,662.71</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$930,259.54</b>
Grant Payments	\$929,809.54
Operating Costs	\$450.00
Refunds	(\$0.00)
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$1,560,403.17</b>

### Send your contributions to:

Children's Trust Fund | Department of Public Welfare  
Office of Child Development and Early Learning  
333 Market Street, 6th Floor | Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333